PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: February 4, 2020
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Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Testing Recommendations

Currently, the CDC is the only agency able to test for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in the U.S. The California Department of Public Health is validating their own Real-Time RT-PCR test for 2019-nCoV, and will shortly be able to test specimens. Only specimens that meet the CDC criteria for 2019-nCoV testing (available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html) will be collected and sent for testing.

- The current test will not be available in U.S. hospitals or primary care settings.
- The test is intended for use with upper and lower respiratory specimens collected from individuals who meet CDC criteria for 2019-nCoV testing.
- Please see attached flow chart for evaluating and caring for patients suspected of 2019-nCoV infection.

The following clinical features and epidemiologic risk should be present for specimens to be tested:

- Fever OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) AND any person, including health care workers, who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
- Fever AND signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) AND a history of travel from Hubei Province, China within 14 days of symptom onset.
- Fever AND signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization AND a history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset.

If a provider has concerns about additional exposures and wishes to test for 2019-nCoV, they must first contact the County Public Health Department and speak to a Public Health Nurse to
review the case. **In all cases, the County Public Health Department must be contacted prior to sending specimens for testing and to report suspect cases.**

- 805-781-5500 (M-F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.)
- 805-781-4553 (weekends and after hours)